GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:203
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
ILLEGAL SALE OF BOTTLED WATER
Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of companies engaged in manufacture and supply of bottled water in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the number of companies engaged in said business without certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the quality of water in certain cases has been inferior;

(e) if so, the details of such cases detected during the last three years and till date;

(f) whether the Government has taken any action against such companies;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check sale of inferior quality of water as also illegal sale of bottled water?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (h) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 203 FOR 08/08/2005 REGARDING ILLEGAL SALE OF BOTTLED WATER

(a) : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has so far granted 1150 licences to use its Standard Mark on Packaged Drinking Water as per IS 14543:2004 and 6 licences for Packaged Natural Mineral Water as per IS 13428:1998 in India. In Uttar Pradesh, 51 licences for Packaged Drinking Water have been granted and no licence for Packaged Natural Mineral Water has been issued.

(b) & (c): No such survey has been carried out by BIS.

(d) to (h): Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water were brought under mandatory certification of BIS by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide Gazette Notification No. GSR 759(E) and 760(E) dated 29th March, 2001 under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. BIS through its Scheme of Testing and Inspection and Surveillance Inspection ensures that all its licensees for Packaged Drinking Water/ Packaged Natural Mineral Water strictly adhere to the specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Wherever any discrepancy is observed by the BIS, the licensee is placed under 'Stop Marking' which implies that Packaged Drinking Water / Packaged Natural Mineral Water is not to be manufactured till corrective action is taken by the licensee. Where the licensee fails to take corrective action for improvement of quality or any misuse is detected during period of stoppage of marking, licence is cancelled by the BIS. The details of action taken against the licensees during the last three years is given below:-

YEAR			
Actions taken	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 & till Date
Number of Samples Drawn	1787	2709	2937

Number of Samples found failing	286	455	389
Number of Stoppage of Marking due to failing of samples and unsatisfactory performance of the factory	200	372	750
Number of Licences Cancelled	2	18	35

The Enforcement Wing of BIS keeps a watch on such companies who misuse ISI Mark without a valid licence and carries out raids and takes legal action as per BIS Act. Action against the manufacturers of Bottled Water without ISI Mark is taken by the designated State Health Authorities under the provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules framed thereunder.